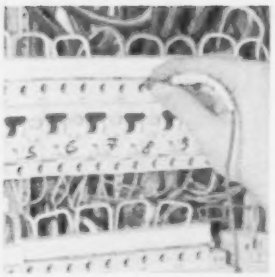
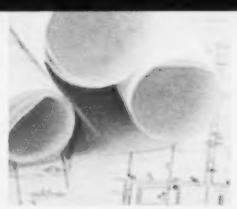
2011 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review



Employment • Unemployment • Economic Regions
Migration • Aboriginal People • Industries
Occupations • Education • Demographics

Government of Alberta



Employment

Employment grew fastest in Alberta

Alberta's employment rose 77,500 or 3.8% in 2011, the highest employment growth rate in the country. The national employment grew 1.6% during the same period. (See Figure 1) Employment increase in Alberta came largely from a gain in full-time employment of 75,000.

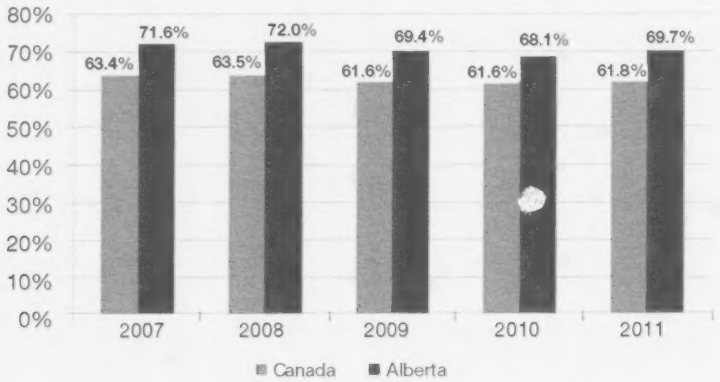
In 2011, 82.9% of all employed Albertans worked full-time. Full-time employment for men and women grew 4.2% and 5.1% respectively, and part-time employment increased 4.5% for men and fell 0.8% for women between 2010 and 2011.

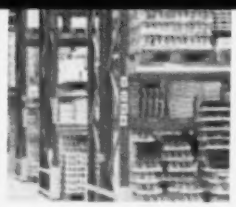
Alberta's participation rate[1] of 73.7% continued to be the highest in the country in 2011. Across Canada, the three provinces that saw increases in participation rate were Alberta, up 0.8 percentage points, Newfoundland and Labrador, up 0.3 percentage points, and Prince Edward Island, up 0.2 percentage points.

Figure 1
Provincial and National Employment, 2011

Province	Employment	Change from 2010	Per cent change
Alberta	2,094,100	77,500	3.8%
British Columbia	2,274,700	18,200	0.8%
Manitoba	624,500	4,700	0.1%
New Brunswick	352,000	-4,100	-1.2%
Quebec	3,953,600	38,500	1.0%
Ontario	6,731,300	121,300	1.8%
Prince Edward Island	72,000	1,400	2.0%
Saskatchewan	525,900	1,600	0.3%
Newfoundland and Labrador	225,400	6,000	2.7%
Nova Scotia	452,800	300	0.1%
Canada	17,306,200	265,200	1.6%

Figure 2
Alberta and Canada Employment Rates[2], 2007-2011





Employment Rate in Alberta was the highest in Canada

Alberta's employment rate reversed two years of decline and rose to 69.7% in 2011, the highest in the country. This rate is 1.6 percentage points higher than the year before, and 0.3 percentage points higher than in 2009. (See Figure 2) The Canadian employment rate in 2011 was 61.8%.

Employment rates for men and women in Alberta were 75.4% and 63.7% respectively, the highest of the ten provinces in 2011. Nationally, the employment rate was 65.9% for men and 57.9% for women.

Between 2010 and 2011, the employment rate for people aged 15 to 24 years rose from 61.2% to 62.7% in Alberta; and nationally, from 55.0% to 55.4% over the same period.

Figure 3
Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2007-2011

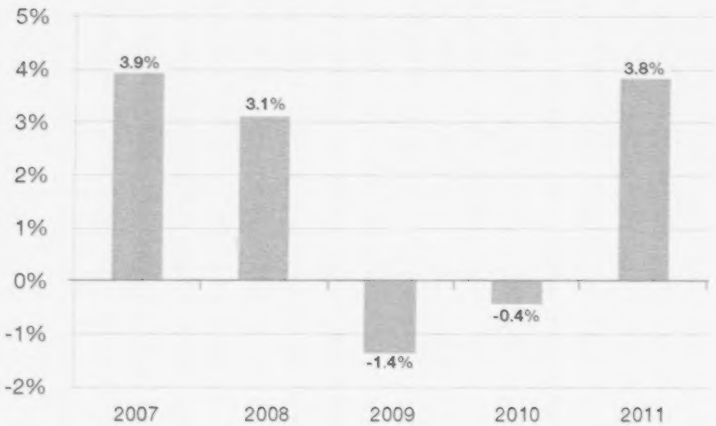
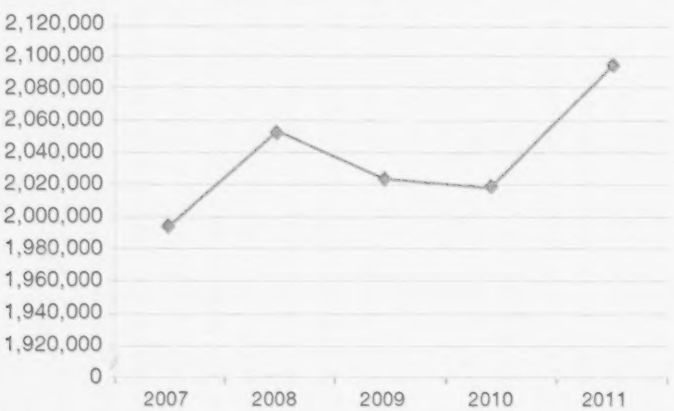


Figure 4
Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2007-2011



[1] The participation rate measures the number of people who are employed and unemployed out of the working age population (15+ years).
[2] The employment rate measures the portion of the working age population (15 years and older) who are employed.

Note: *The slanted double line is used to represent a discontinuity in the employment numbers to display the finer details of the differences between the data points shown in the chart.*

Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Unemployment

Unemployment in Alberta declined for the second consecutive year

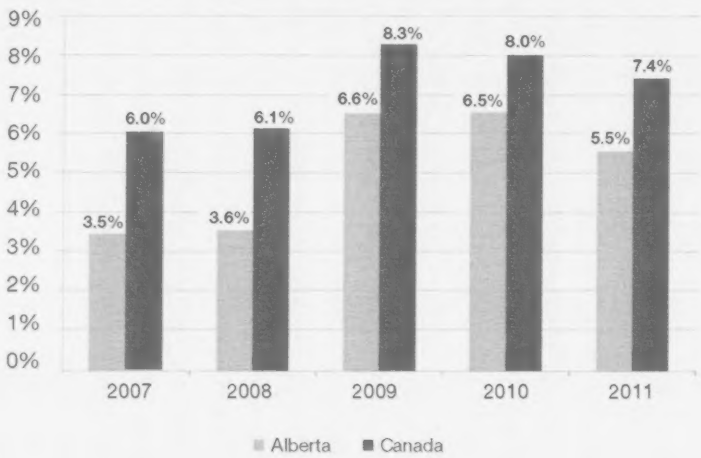
2011 was the second consecutive year of decrease in the number of unemployed Albertans, declining by 19,700. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.5% in 2010 to 5.5% in 2011; and was the third lowest in the country, following Saskatchewan at 5.0% and Manitoba at 5.4%. (See Figure 5) The national unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 7.4%. (See Figure 6)

Between 2010 and 2011, the unemployment rate fell for Albertans across all age groups, except for the 55 to 59 years old. The three age groups with the largest declines were the 40 to 44 years old, down by 1.9 percentage points; the 30 to 34 years old, down by 1.6 percentage points; and the 25 to 29 years old, down by 1.5 percentage points.

The unemployment rate in 2011 for men in Alberta was 5.6%, lower than for Canadian men, at 7.8%. The unemployment rate for Alberta women, at 5.3%, was also lower than Canadian women at 7.0%.

Figure 5
Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2011

Figure 6
Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2007-2011



Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Economic Regions

Employment was higher in all Economic Regions

All of Alberta's eight economic regions experienced gains in employment in 2011. Employment rose the most in the Edmonton and Calgary regions, with a combined employment growth of 61,100 or 4.3% above the 2010 level. These two regions' combined employment increase in 2011 exceeded the combined employment losses of 15,500 in 2009 and 10,700 in 2010. Employment increased the least in Camrose-Drumheller by 600, or 0.6%; and in Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House, by 200, or 0.4%.

In 2011, the unemployment rate fell in all economic regions except the Wood Buffalo-Cold Lake region. This region's unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points from 5.0% in 2010 to 5.2% in 2011. Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House had the largest decline in the unemployment rate, from 5.4% in 2010 to 3.5% in 2011. The three regions that had the second largest declines in their 2011 unemployment rates were: Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River, from 6.8% to 5.6%; Edmonton, from 6.7% to 5.5%; and Calgary, from 6.9% to 5.7%. (See Figures 7 and 8)

At 3.5%, the unemployment rate for Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House was the lowest of the eight regions in 2011. The Red Deer region had the highest unemployment rate of 5.8%.

Figure 7
Economic Regions in Northern Alberta, Unemployment Rates, in 2007–2011

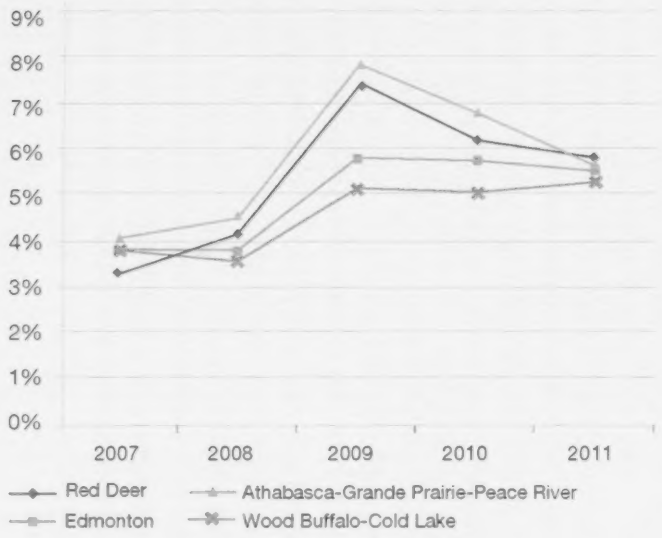
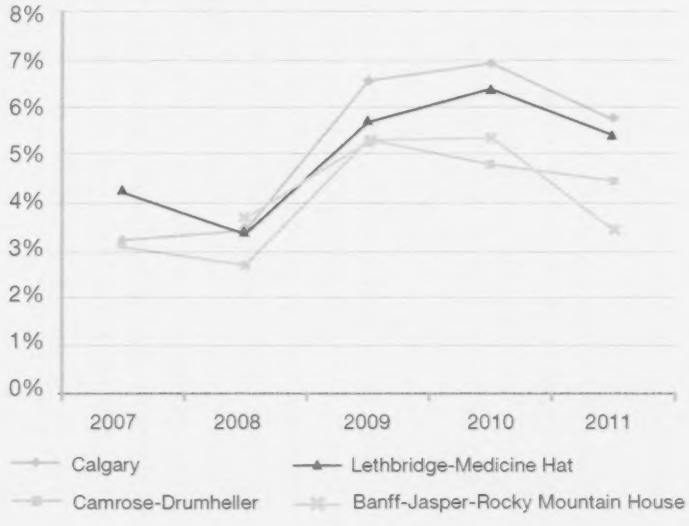


Figure 8
Economic Regions in Southern Alberta, Unemployment Rates, in 2007-2011



Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Migration

Net interprovincial migration to Alberta was moderate

The number of in-migrants to Alberta from other Canadian provinces rose by 6,965 or 11.0% between 2009 and 2010, after a 21.6% decline in 2009. The number of out-migrants leaving Alberta for other parts of Canada was 4,543, which was 7.5% higher in 2010 compared to 2009. (See Figure 9) Thus, the net interprovincial migration to Alberta in 2010 was 4,616, more than double the total for 2009.

In 2009, the number of temporary foreign workers who came to work in Alberta and the number of net interprovincial migration to Alberta were both lower than in 2008. (See Figure 10) However, the number of landed immigrants arriving in 2009 was 11.6% higher than the year before. The number of immigrants landing in Alberta continued to rise in 2010, with an additional 5,626 people landed, or a 20.8% increase, compared to 2009.

Figure 9
Alberta Interprovincial Migration, 2007-2010
Source: Statistics Canada

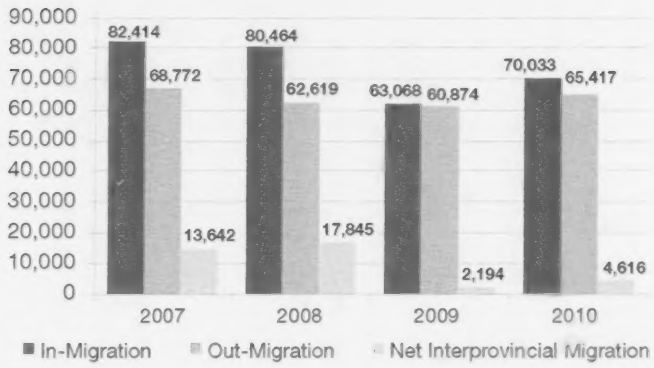
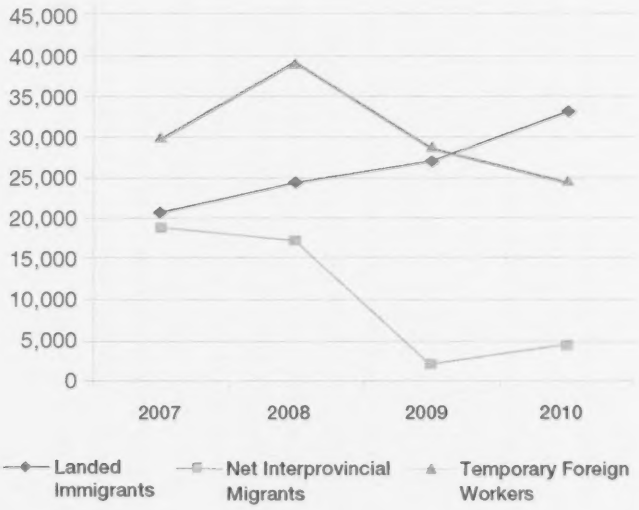


Figure 10
Alberta Landed Immigrants, Net Interprovincial Migrants, and Temporary Foreign Workers[3], 2007-2010
Source: Statistics Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada



[3]The total number of temporary foreign workers is the sum of initial entries to Alberta during the year.

Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Aboriginal People

Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve had the highest employment rate in the country

Employment rose for the second year for Alberta's Aboriginal people living off-reserve with an increase of 1,000 or 1.4% in 2011. At the same time, the number of unemployed off-reserve Aboriginal people in Alberta fell 21.2% or by 2,500 between 2010 and 2011.

More than half, or 59.4% of all Alberta's off-reserve Aboriginal people worked in Edmonton and Calgary. (See Figure 11) Between 2010 and 2011, the largest increase was in Calgary, up by 2,100. Employment also increased for off-reserve Aboriginal people in Athabasca-Grande Prairie-Peace River, Lethbridge-Medicine Hat, and Red Deer.

Employment fell for Aboriginal people living off-reserve in four economic regions in 2011: Wood Buffalo – Cold Lake, Edmonton, Camrose-Drumheller, and Banff-Jasper-Rocky Mountain House.

Off-reserve-Aboriginal People's employment rose in excess of 40.0% in the following industries in 2011: Manufacturing, Information, Culture and Recreation, Retail Trade, and Other Services[4].

In 2011, the three occupations with the greatest employment increases for off-reserve Aboriginal People were: Sales and services, up 1,500; Natural and applied sciences and related, up 1,300; and Health, up 1,300.

Alberta Aboriginal people living off-reserve saw employment rate decreased from 60.9% to 60.2% in 2011. (See Figure 12) However, their employment rate in 2011 is the highest among all other off-reserve Aboriginal people in Canada. The Canadian average employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve was 55.8% in 2011.

Figure 11
Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve, Employment by Economic Region, 2011

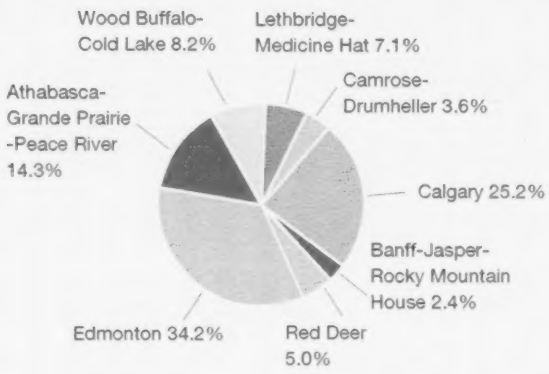
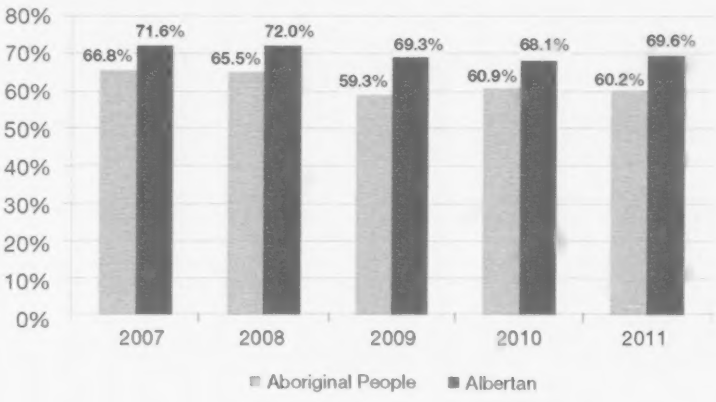


Figure 12
Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve, Employment Rates, 2007-2011



[4]Other Services: This sector comprises establishments, not classified to any other sector, primarily engaged in repairing, or performing general or routine maintenance, on motor vehicles, machinery, equipment and other products to ensure they work efficiently; providing personal care services, funeral services, laundry services and other services to individuals, such as pet care services and photofinishing services; organizing and promoting religious activities; supporting various causes through grants-making, advocating (promoting) various social and political causes, and promoting and defending the interests of their members.

Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Industries

Services-Producing Industries led employment growth in 2011

The Services-Producing industries led the growth in employment in Alberta in 2011, with an addition of 42,800 number employed, while the Goods-Producing industries grew by 34,800.

Among the Services-Producing industries, the two industries with the largest employment gains were Wholesale Trade, up 17,200, and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services up 12,600. For Goods-Producing Industries, Manufacturing had the highest employment increase of 16,800 in 2011. These three industries together added over 46,000 employments in 2011. (See Figure 13)

The three industries that had the highest employment growth in 2011 were: Wholesale Trade, up 23.1%; Manufacturing, up 13.5%, and Agriculture, up 10.0%.

Six industries had unemployment rates below three percent in 2011: Wholesale Trade; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing; Health Care and Social Assistance; Public Administration; Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction; and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

Figure 13
Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Industry, 2011

Industry Group	2011 Employment	Change from 2010	Unemployment Rate
Retail Trade	231,400	-100	4.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	224,900	5,600	2.3%
Construction	210,800	4,300	6.4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	163,500	12,600	2.9%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	151,100	10,900	2.8%
Manufacturing	141,400	16,800	3.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	130,800	5,600	5.4%
Educational Services	127,400	-2,100	3.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	107,300	2,400	3.2%
Other Services	105,100	6,700	3.3%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing	100,100	-5,100	2.2%
Wholesale Trade	91,700	17,200	1.6%
Public Administration	84,800	-2,100	2.5%
Information, Culture and Recreation	78,900	1,900	5.7%
Business, Building and Other Support Services	73,200	300	6.6%
Utilities	16,300	-2,100	*
Forestry and Logging with Support Activities	3,400	0	*

Insufficient Data

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Occupations

Business, finance and administrative occupations had the largest employment increase

Employment rose across eight of the ten occupational groups. (See Figure 14) The occupations with declines in employment in 2011 were Management, falling by 5,900; and Social science, education, government service and religion, declining by 1,600. At 1.6%, the former also had the lowest unemployment rate of the ten occupations.

The Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations had the highest unemployment rate of the ten occupations, at 5.4% in 2011. Employment rose by 16,500 for this occupation.

Health occupations had the smallest increase in employment of 2,800 in 2011, after an increase of 2,300 in 2010. In 2011, this occupation had an unemployment rate of 1.7%.

The largest increase in employment in 2011 was for the Business, finance and administrative occupations, gaining 21,700 from 2010, after a 4,200 employment loss between 2009 and 2010. The unemployment rate for this occupation was 3.8% in 2010, and fell to 2.7% in 2011.

Figure 14
Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Occupation, 2011

Occupations	2011 Employment	Change from 2010	Unemployment Rate
Sales and service	488,300	9,700	5.1%
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related	389,700	16,500	5.4%
Business, finance and administrative	376,100	21,700	2.7%
Natural and applied sciences and related	172,800	16,300	2.4%
Management	156,600	-5,900	1.6%
Social science, education, government service and religion	156,300	-1,600	2.8%
Health	124,800	2,800	1.7%
Unique to primary industry	112,500	5,800	4.4%
Unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	69,400	9,000	3.3%
Art, culture, recreation and sport	47,700	3,300	4.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Education

More than half of Alberta's labour force had post-secondary education or higher

In 2011, 57.8% of Alberta's labour force, or 1,278,600 Albertans, had high school graduation or post-secondary certificates or diplomas; and another 22.4% had University degrees.

The labour force that had post-secondary certificates or diplomas rose from 692,100 in 2007 to 761,300 in 2011, a 10.0% increase. In 2011, this group made up 34.4% of Alberta's labour force. (See Figure 15)

Alberta labour force that had high school completion increased by 47,600 between 2007 and 2011. In addition, the labour force participants who did not complete high school fell 14,300, or 5.0% during the same period. As a result, the percentage that did not have a high school diploma, fell from 13.9% in 2007 to 12.3% in 2011; while the percentage that had high school diploma rose from 22.8% to 23.4% in the same period.

Alberta's labour force with a Bachelor's Degree is one of the fastest growing groups during the past four years. Between 2007 and 2011, the number rose by 63,100, or a 21.0% increase. In 2011, this group made up 16.4% of Alberta's labour force; up from 14.5% in 2007.

Figure 15
Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment Trends, 2007-2011

Educational Level	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
0 to 8 years	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
Some secondary	12.2%	12.4%	11.4%	11.1%	10.7%
High School Diploma	22.8%	23.0%	22.6%	22.5%	23.4%
Some Post-Secondary	9.5%	8.5%	8.1%	7.9%	7.5%
Post-Secondary Certificate or Diploma	33.5%	32.9%	34.4%	34.8%	34.4%
University: Bachelor's Degree	14.5%	15.5%	16.2%	16.3%	16.4%
University: Graduate Degree	5.8%	6.1%	5.8%	5.7%	6.0%

Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Demographics

Employment rose for all age groups

Young Albertans, 15 to 24 years of age, had the smallest increase in employment of 4,400, or 1.4% between 2010 and 2011. (See Figure 16) This age group accounted for 15.2% of total employment in Alberta in 2011. Those 25 to 44 years old had the largest gains in employment of 33,500, or a 3.6% rise in 2011. Employment for those 45 to 64 years old, which accounted for 36% of Alberta employment, rose by 27,900, or 3.8% in 2011. For the 65 years and older age group, employment was 11,700 or 20.9% higher in 2011. At 20.9%, they have the highest growth rate of the four age groups in 2011.

Employment rates in 2011 were also higher for all four age groups compared to 2010. (See Figure 17) Albertans aged 15 to 24 years old had an employment rate of 62.7%, the highest of their age group in the country in 2011. The employment rate for Albertans 25 to 44 years old was 83.5% in 2011. The employment rate for the 45 to 64 years old, at 77.6%, was the second highest in Canada, after Saskatchewan's 77.7%. With a 2.5 percentage point increase, the 65 years and older Albertans had the largest increase in employment rate in the country between 2010 and 2011. Their employment rate, which went up from 15.1% in 2010 to 17.6% in 2011, was also the highest of all Canadians 65 years and older.

Figure 16
Alberta Employment by Age Groups, 2010-2011

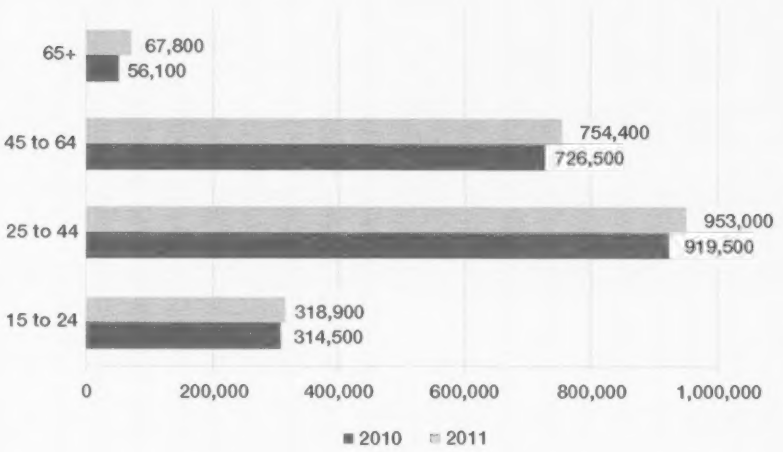
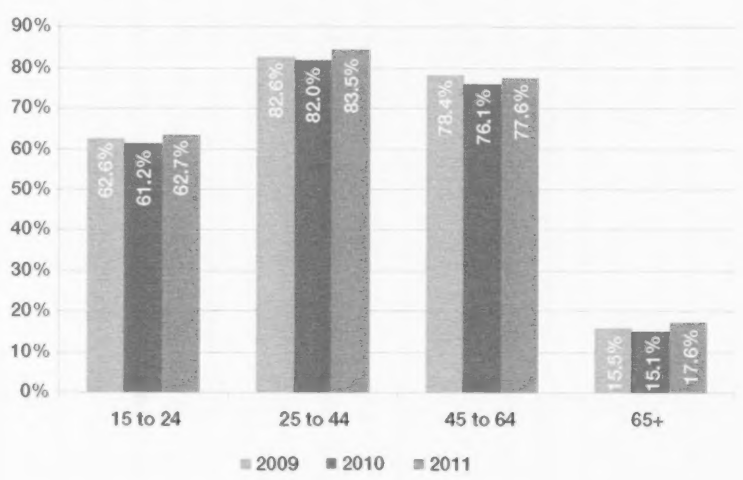


Figure 17
Alberta Employment Rates by Age Groups, 2009-2011



Source for charts: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

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